

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF COLONEL ERNEST R. MORGAN

REF: BEIRUT 8491

DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IS RESPONDING TO QUERIES ON MORGAN
ABDUCTION AS FOLLOWS:

1. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE REPORT, CONFIRMED BY
EMBASSY BEIRUT, THAT DEMANDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM A
CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP PURPORTEDLY HOLDING COLONEL MORGAN IN BEIRUT?

REPLY: EMBASSY BEIRUT RECEIVED AT ABOUT 1945 BEIRUT TIME,
JULY 6, A COMMUNICATION CONCERNING COLONEL MORGAN FROM "THE

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ACTION ORGANIZATION." THE CONTENTS OF THIS COMMUNICATION WERE IMMEDIATELY MADE KNOWN TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT.

2. WHAT ACTION IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKING TO SECURE THE SAFE RELEASE OF COLONEL MORGAN?

REPLY: OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT IS REMAINING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING COLONEL MORGAN. AMBASSADOR GODLEY HAS DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH FOREIGN

MINISTER TAQLA. A WASHINGTON TASK FORCE IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO SECURE COLONEL MORGAN'S RELEASE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ROBERT A. FEAREY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S TERRORISM COORDINATOR.

3. IS THAT ALL YOU CAN TELL US?

REPLY: AS YOU CAN WELL UNDERSTAND, THIS IS A VERY DELICATE SITUATION. IT WOULD NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO THE SAFE RETURN OF COLONEL MORGAN TO COMMENT FURTHER AT THIS TIME. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SECURE HIS RELEASE.

4. WHAT IS U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY IN CASES OF ABDUCTION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL ABROAD?

REPLY: OUR POLICY IS WELL KNOWN AND NEED NOT BE REPEATED. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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To: BEIRUT NIACT
ANKARA
ISLAMABAD
DAMASCUS
AMMAN
CAIRO

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